

Economic Development Advisory Council

October 2009

Update on Montana Department of
Commerce 2009 Activities

Anthony J. Preite: Director



GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER

**Department of
Commerce****Job Vacancies****Reinvestment Act
Programs****Energy Promotion
& Development****Indian Country Economic
Development****Local Government Grant
Program****Montana Main Street
Program****Montana Quality Schools
Quick Start Energy Grant
Program****State Tribal Economic
Development****Treasure State Endowment
Program****Wood Product Industry
Recovery and Stabilization
Program****Workforce Training Grant
Program****Contact Commerce****Location**
301 S Park Ave
Helena MT 59601
[Map](#)**Mailing Address**
PO Box 200501[Home](#) » [Commerce](#)**Montana Department of
Commerce****Montana Information Related to
the American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act (ARRA)****A Message from Director
Anthony J. Preite**

Welcome to the Montana Department of Commerce's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) website.

The Montana Department of Commerce has a strong history of working to improve Montana's economy and as a result, the quality of life for our citizens. Every day, we work hard to ensure our programs are working for you. As an agency, we take the responsibility of administering ARRA funds just as seriously. Congress has tasked us with an important job by providing these ARRA dollars. We are committed to investing them wisely, with transparency and full accountability.

Though ARRA will take various forms and be implemented through both new and existing programs, its intent is clear – ARRA is designed to immediately stimulate the economy and create jobs for Montanans. I encourage the public to continue visiting this website for updates on how we are implementing ARRA dollars.

Anthony J. Preite
Director
Montana Department of Commerce

Commerce Reinvestment Act Programs**http://recovery.mt.gov/commerce****Business Resources Division (BRD)**

Visit the Federal [Recovery.gov](#) web site for more information on the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)



For information on Montana Department of Commerce Plans, Programs and Projects, visit [Recovery.mt.gov/Commerce](#)

**Recovery
Funds Reporting
Requirements****Recovery.gov****Key Deadlines****Federal Recovery Act**
Full text**Montana Reinvestment Act**
Full bill text and status**Grants.gov**
Recovery related grants

Statutory Economic Development Programs

Contact: Andy Poole

■ HB 123:

- Sunset extended through June 30 2019
- Level or reduced funding for programs

■ Commerce:

■ Small Business Development Centers	\$125,000
■ Small Business Innovation Research	\$50,000
■ Export Trade	\$300,000
■ Research and Commercialization 2013	\$1.275 mill/\$3.65 mill
■ Montana Manufacturing Extension Center	\$200,000
■ Certified Regional Development Corporations	\$425,000

■ Agriculture

■ Growth Through Agriculture	\$625,000	\$1.25 mill 2013
■ Cooperative Development Center	\$65,000	



Coal Board Grants



Contact: Dave Cole

- HB 2 - \$3 million for biennium
- SB 100 - \$2,736,643 in additional Coal Board funds
 - Status –
 - June 12 - Coal Board approved 19 applications totaling \$2,676,495.
 - October 16 - Coal Board approved 11 applications totaling \$1,567,169

Approved Coal Board Applications

■ June Board Meeting

- Wyola School District
- Town of Bridger
- Lavina School District
- Carbon County
- City of Hardin
- Musselshell County
- Roundup Schools
- Bighorn County
- Powder River County
- Terry School District
- Rosebud County
- Roundup Public Schools

■ October Board Meeting

- Big Horn County (2)
- City of Forsyth
- Golden Valley County
- City of Hardin
- Musselshell County (2)
- Powder River County
- City of Roundup (2)



Worker Training

Contact: Nancy Guccione

- SB 89 eliminated statutory sunset of June 30, 2010
- \$5,063,390 appropriated for the biennium
 - HB 2 - \$1,876,000 per year for new and existing workers
 - HB 645 - \$1,311,390 in worker training funds appropriated for the biennium
- Status:
 - 2 applications received - both were funded but one has withdrawn
 - <http://recovery.mt.gov/Commerce/ARRAWTG/default.mcpix>



Wood Products Revolving Loans

Contact: Tony Preite/Karyl Tobel

- Loan Fund of \$11.3 million
 - HB 645 - \$7.5 million
 - Matched to \$2.7 million EDA grant
 - Additional \$1.5 million in CDBG (*federal stimulus*)
- Status –
 - Commerce - 21 separate loans to 14 companies
 - \$1 million dollar loan to MAEDC
 - October, 2009 - MAEDC has assisted 19 wood products companies

<http://recovery.mt.gov/commerce/wpirs/default.mcp>



Quick Start Energy Grants

Contact: Kelly Casillas

- HB 645 - \$14,950,000 available for school districts
 - energy audits and energy efficiency improvements
- 135 days to do the work (May 15, 2009 to September 30, 2009)
- Any remaining funds placed into competitive Quality Schools Facility Grant Program (Legacy Program)
 - Status –
 - \$12.2 million awarded to 99 applicants for energy efficiency improvements
 - \$2.2 million awarded to 143 applicants for energy audits
 - Over 160 school districts have been served by this program

<http://commerce.mt.gov/QuickStart/>

School Distribution Grants

Contact: Kelly Casillas



- HB 645 - \$20 million for grants to schools
 - deferred maintenance and energy efficiency improvements
- Distributed by quality educator formula
- Must be expended by September 30, 2010
 - Status – *90% of funds will be distributed once schools have executed a contract with the Department.*

Quality Schools Facility Grants



Contact: Kelly Casillas

- HB 152 - \$12 million appropriated
 - Competitive “legacy” grant program
- Projects addressing major deferred maintenance, energy efficiency, critical infrastructure, emergency and critical infrastructure needs, and technology improvements
- Creates an ongoing flow of state revenue into the account
 - Status – *Guidelines, rules, and application are in development*



Tribal Government Grants

Contact: Jason Smith

Contact: Heather Sobrepena–George

- HB 645 – \$5 Million to STEDC
 - infrastructure improvements and energy efficiency projects
 - (\$617,937.50 for each of the eight tribal governments)
 - Status –
 - Contracts signed with 7 of 8 Tribal Governments
- HB 645 - Indian Country Economic Development
\$1,596,992 over the biennium
 - *Status* - Guidelines are developed and applications can now be made for funding.

<http://iced.mt.gov/>

Biomass Energy Feasibility

Contact : Tom Kaiserski

- HB 645 - \$475,000

- Status –

- July 31 application due date
 - 9 applications received
 - Funding provided to 3 applicants
 - Porter Bench Energy LLC - \$300,000
 - North Western Energy - \$125,000
 - DNRC - \$50,000



Biomedical Research Grants

Contact : Andy Poole



- HB 2 - \$2.5 million
 - Must be a private non-profit to apply
 - Status –
 - August 28 – Application Guidelines announced
 - October 16 – Applications due
 - Applications received and under review at this time



Community Development Division

Contact: Dave Cole

- HB 645 - Local Government Grants \$20 million
 - Status – As of October 20
 - 118 Contracts drafted with Local Governments
 - \$10,646,101. 53 has been dispersed

- HB 645 - Historic Preservation Grants \$4 million.
 - HB645 specific awards are made to the Daly Mansion (\$50,000), St. Mary's Mission (\$40,000), Traveler's Rest Historic Site (\$180,000)
 - Status –
 - November 16 - Grant applications due
 - Grant ceiling is \$250,000
 - 65 potential project inquiries received thus far

Treasure State Endowment

Contact: Dave Cole

- Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) \$23 million
 - Status –
 - 63 preliminary engineering report contracts done
 - Over 50% of 66 construction projects contracts prepared
 - Application workshops for 2011 Legislature are being held now:
 - Missoula (10/14), Billings (10/20), Helena (10/22) Project



Housing Division

Contact: Bruce Brensdal

- Tax Credit Assistance - \$7.818 million
 - fund financing gaps in rental projects awarded tax credits in 2007, 2008 and 2009.
 - Status – The Board awarded funding August 19, 2009.
- Tax Credit Exchange - \$17.825 million
 - replacement funding for LIHTC projects because projects not able to attract investors.
 - Projects allocated in 2008 and 2009 are eligible.
 - Status – The Board awarded funding August 19, 2009.

Project	City	County	Tax Credits	*Assistance	Exchange
Makoshika	Glendive				125,800
Eagles II		Lewis & Clark			475,000
	White Sulphur Springs	Meagher			2,207,364
Whitetail Run			3,243,000	2,658,141	
		Silverbow			1,431,487
		Cascade			2,480,965
	Lewistown	Fergus			4,559,419
Spring Creek II	Kalispell	Flathead	4,623,075		670,000
Superior Commons		Mineral	3,263,750		1,226,250
Big			6,900	5,160,219	1,792,396
Equinox					2,856,992
		Total	11,033,100	7,818,360	17,825,673
Grand Total				36,677,133	

Contact

- Tony Preite 841-2704
- Andy Poole 841-2700
- Marty Tuttle 841-2706
- Heather Sobrepena – George 841-2775
- Kelly Casillas 841-2800
- Dave Cole 841-2776
- Bruce Brensdal 841-2844
- Karyl Tobel 841-2732
- Tom Kaiserski 841-2034
- Jason Smith 841-2821